

though Mr. Atkinson has described the Griffon as "one of the largest and fiercest of all European birds"(!).

Col. W. Verner has described how a bird with a broken wing which he had shot sprang at him and bit through his coat before he was able to kill it, but almost any wounded animal will do as much. A field-mouse will bite hard when caught—even a long-eared bat will try to do so—yet these animals cannot be said to attack man.

The statement that Griffons are said to be invariably silent ("all the books say so" according to Mr. Atkinson) is also contrary to facts. In the 'Practical Handbook' I wrote, in 1924, "Absolutely silent on the wing, it is often noisy on the breeding ledges, emitting weird grunts and lowing notes. A hissing noise is also occasionally heard at times of excitement, as when young are endangered." Kirke Swann also noted that hoarse croaks were uttered on the wing when the birds were close to the nests. Verner also describes the hissing, but does not mention the grunts or croaks. The works of Newton, Dresser, Seeböhm, Saunders, Irby, and Coward contain no reference to the voice, so it is difficult to understand what Mr. Atkinson means by "all the books."

Seven new Races from Indo-China.

MESSRS. J. DELACOUR and J. C. GREENWAY sent the following descriptions :—

Stachyris striolata helenæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Intermediate between *S. s. guttata* from Burma and Siam and *S. s. tonkinensis* (= *diluta*) Kinnear from Tonkin and northern Annam. Ear-coverts dark grey as in *tonkinensis*, but underparts of a richer tone, the breast being of a darker and more vivid reddish-brown, the flanks and abdomen redder and darker without an olivaceous tinge. Head, particularly the nape, of a slightly lighter brown.

Type.—Male in Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., no. 1724, Nam-Khueng, 20 km. west of Ban-Houesai, Mekong River, W. Laos, collected by J. Delacour, J. Greenway, and F. Edmond-Blanc, 17. i. 39.

Measurements of type.—Wing 70, tail 58, tarsus 23, bill (from base) 11 mm.

4 males, 2 females examined, from Xieng-Khouang, Nam-Khueng, and Lo-Tiao (1400 m. alt.). Wings, male, 66, 69, 70, 71 mm.; female, 64, 67 mm.; and numerous specimens from Burma and Indo-China.

Named in honour of Mrs. J. Greenway.

***Brachypteryx leucophrys langbianensis*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Males differ from *B. l. carolinæ* of southern China and northern Indo-China in having the underparts unspotted and greyish instead of white mottled with brown; the throat is pure white.

Type.—Adult male, field number 2560, Delacour and Greenway collection (VII Expedition en Indo-Chine); Pic de Langbian, near Dalat, Annam, March 13, 1939; in Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Measurements of type.—Wing 61.5, tail 12, tarsus 22, bill (from base) 10 mm.

***Zoothera monticola atrata*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from *Zoothera m. monticola*, which ranges in the Himalayas from the valley of the Sutlej to Assam, Manipur, and the Chin Hills, in its much darker, blacker general coloration. The upper parts appear to be black, the feathers being very deep grey or black edged with deep black; the head and wings are tinged with brownish. The tips of feathers of the underparts are black. Iris brown; bill black; legs and feet brown.

Type.—Adult female, collected by B. Bjorkegren at Chapa, Tonkin (5000 ft.), January 29, 1939, in Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Measurements of type.—Wing 129, tail 48, bill 26, tarsus 37 mm.

Remarks.—Two males and one female from Chapa examined (wings 130–134 mm.). The colour of the upper parts is much like that of *Z. andromadæ* of Java, which have not

changed colour in the thirty years since they were collected. Variation in length of wing and bill is very great in this species.

***Muscicapula sapphira laotiana*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Immature males differ from *M. s. sapphira*, which ranges from Nepaul to Yunnan, south to the southern Shan States, in having the head and neck a greyer brown.

Females differ from *M. s. sapphira* in being olive-brown, the rump concolorous with the back, instead of orange-reddish. The throat is whitish-brown instead of russet, and the belly mottled brown and whitish.

Type.—Immature male, field number 1945, Delacour and Greenway collection (VII Expedition en Indo-Chine); Col de Taloun, 25 km. east of Luang Prabang, Laos, January 27, 1939, collected by J. Delacour, J. Greenway, and F. Edmond-Blanc.

Remarks.—Two immature males from the southern Shan States, collected in 1874 and 1902 and now in the British Museum, have grey heads like our birds from Laos. We conclude that there has been no great post-mortem change.

***Garrulax moniliger schauenseei*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Nearest to *G. m. mouhoti*, from S. Indo-China and S.E. Siam, but differs in having the black collar on the throat extending to the ear-coverts and connected with the line running from the eyes above the ear-coverts, which is blackish instead of grey; ear-coverts mixed with black; upper parts darker, more olive than in *G. m. mouhoti*. The forms *G. m. fuscata* and *G. m. bakeri* from Burma and Siam are paler still, but have a similar collar; their nuchal collar is less reddish and lighter, and also their flanks are less vivid; *G. m. fuscata* is the paler form and has a nuchal collar brighter and better marked than *G. m. bakeri*.

Iris yellow, bill black, legs and feet horny grey.

Type.—Male in Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., no 76, Xieng-Khouang, Laos (alt. 1200 m.), collected 6. xi. 1938 by J. D., J. G., and F. Ed.-Bl.

Measurements of type.—Wing 125, tail 132, beak (from nostrils) 18, tarsus 40 mm.

Three males, one female examined, from Xieng-Khouang, Ban-Houesai and Nam-Khueng (alt. 450 m.), Laos. Wings, male 122, 125, 126; female 122 mm.; also numerous specimens from S. Indo-China, Siam, Burma, and the Malay Peninsula.

G. m. tonkinensis and *G. m. pasquieri*, from Tonkin and Annam, are much smaller and very differently coloured.

Named in honour of Mr. R. Mayer de Schauensee.

***Æthopyga ezrai blanci*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Nearest to *Æ. ezrai ezrai* from Dakto (1500 m.), S. Annam, but has the breast and under tail-coverts flammulated with orange-red, as in *Æ. nipalensis*, instead of pure yellow. The olive-green of the back is also more golden. It resembles closely *Æ. nipalensis victoriae*, from Mt. Victoria, Burma, but lacks the yellow patch of the back and has a much shorter bill.

Æthopyga e. ezrai is remarkable in lacking the yellow patch on the lower back characteristic of other *Æthopyga*. The two forms known at present are very rare birds, confined to isolated high mountains.

Iris dark brown, bill black, legs dark brown.

Type.—Male in Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., no. 191, Phu-Kobo (alt. 2000 m.), near Xieng-Khouang, Laos, collected 9. xii. 1938 by J. Delacour and J. Greenway.

Wing 52, tail 61, beak 17, tarsus 15 mm.

Three males examined, from Phu-Kobo. Wings 51, 51, 52, tails 64, 62, 61 mm.

Named in honour of M. François Edmond-Blanc, who obtained the three specimens.

***Sitta solangiæ fortior*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from *S. s. solangiæ* Delacour and Jabouille, 1930, known only from the type from Chapa, Tonkin, in its darker, bluer, less violet crown, and in the colour of the underparts, which are suffused with violet, less greyish-brown.

Type.—Adult male, field number 2602, Delacour and Greenway collection (VII Expedition en Indo-Chine); Pic de Langbian, near Dalat, Annam, March 14, 1939; in Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Measurements of type.—Wing 83, tail 45, tarsus 17, bill (from base) 14 mm.

Material.—Three specimens including the type, and two unsexed topotypes of *S. solangiæ*.

Remarks.—Further field study will determine the relationship of *S. solangiæ* to *S. frontalis*. It is not improbable that the species is a form of the latter which breeds at higher altitudes.

A new Race of Skylark from South Kiusiu.

The Marquis YAMASHINA sent the following description :—

After having compared fifteen specimens of Skylarks from Kagoshima Prefecture with seventy-five specimens of *A. a. japonica* from other localities in Japan I have found that the former group differs (as mentioned below) from the latter; therefore I propose to name it

Alauda arvensis kagoshimæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *A. a. japonica*, but the black stripes on the crown are broader and more sharply defined. Five out of the fifteen specimens examined have the streaks almost equal to that of the widest individuals among *A. a. japonica*, but the remaining ten have the stripes decidedly wider and more intensive than those of any specimen of *A. a. japonica*.

Type.—Male adult, no. 24918 in Yamashina Collection. Sakurajima, Kagoshima Prefecture, 21. x. 1917.

Measurements.—Male, female adults. Wing 88–101, tail 52–64, exposed culmen 12–14 mm.

Distribution.—I should restrict the range of this new subspecies to Kagoshima Prefecture, but intermediate characters are sometimes found among the specimens from warmer but more northern countries, such as Fukuoka Pref. (rarely), Shizuoka Pref., and Kanagawa Pref.